(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) All such issues are considered as a part of the annual budget exercise. The Government's response thereto, if any, will be reflected in the forthcoming budget proposals.

Creation of Customs Preventive Commissionerates

55. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create Customs Preventive Commissionerates in different parts of the country especially in Coastal States in order to check smuggling of dangerous explosives, modernised weapons and drugs in coastal areas;

(b) if so, the number of Customs Preventive Commissionerates to be created in Orissa; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check rampant smuggling in coastal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government is presently engaged in cadre restructuring of various grades of posts in the Customs and Central Excise field formations which may result in the creation of new commissionerates of Central Excise and Customs including Customs Preventive Commissionerates in some parts of the country. There is no proposal for creation of a separate customs preventive commissionerate in the State of Orissa at present.

(c) All the field formations under Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant, alert and equipped to prevent smuggling of contraband goods all over the country including coastal areas.